

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 00423 021709 Z

43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12

IO-12 MC-02 ACDA-19 EB-11 TRSE-00 COME-00 GAC-01

OMB-01 NIC-01 RSR-01 INRE-00 /159 W

----- 084660

P 021630 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4537

INFO DIA WASHDC PRIORITY

USDAO LONDON ENGLAND

USCINCEUR

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMCONSUL BELFAST

C O N F I D E N T I A L DUBLIN 0423

NOFORN

E. O. 11652 GDS 31 DEC 1979

TAGS: PINS/ EI

SUBJECT: SEIZURE OF IRA ARMS SHIPMENT ON " CLAUDIA"

REF: UR 4663 FROM DC-1 SAME SUBJ, DTG 302107 Z MAR 73

DUBLIN 416

1. ANSWERS NOT YET AVAILABLE TO HARD QUESTIONS ON  
SUPPLIER OF CLAUDIA ARMS, WHERE LOADED, EXACT LISTING  
OF MUNITIONS RECOVERED, AND WHY CLAUDIA WAS IMMEDIATELY  
RELEASED. IRISH DEFENSE FORCES HAVE PROMISED TO  
PROVIDE AVAILABLE INFO ON 3 APRIL. WILL FORWARD  
REPORT ASAP AFTER MEETING WITH IDF.

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PAGE 02 DUBLIN 00423 021709 Z

2. ONE DUBLIN NEWSPAPER SAYS THAT FONMIN WILL MAKE PROTEST TO LIBYANS VIA UN MISSION ( SINCE THERE ARE NO DIRECT DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS) IF THERE IS EVIDENCE TO SHOW THAT LIBYA WAS INVOLVED IN GUN- RUNNING. STORY SOUNDS LOGICAL, BUT FONOFF SOURCES CANNOT CONFIRM.

3. NEWSPAPERS CONTINUE CARRY MANY STORIES ON CLAUDIA INCIDENT. " IRISH PRESS" APRIL 2 REPORTS THAT GUNTHER LEINHAEUSER, SPEAKING IN HAMBURG, ADMITTED THAT HE HAD ARRANGED SHIPMENT OF ARMS TO IRELAND FROM " DEALER IN LIBYA." LEINHAEUSER IS APPARENTLY MAJORITY OWNER OF CLAUDIA. ACCORDING TO SAME NEWSPAPER STORY, HE WAS CONVICTED IN 1967 OF ARMS SMUGGLING AND GIVEN FINE AND SUSPENDED JAIL SENTENCE IN GERMANY.

4. MOST DETAILED AND CONTROVERSIAL NEWSPAPER ARTICLE IS IN " SUNDAY (LONDON) TIMES." THIS STORY ATTRIBUTES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO FACT THAT PM COSGRAVE, AS SOON AS HE TOOK OFFICE, CHANGED " IRISH GOVT'S TRADITIONAL ATTITUDE OF INDULGENCE" TOWARDS REPUBLICAN MOVEMENT.

5. COMMENT: SEIZURE OF CLAUDIA IS GOOD BREAK FOR NEW PM GOSGRAVE. ACTION CERTAINLY DEMONSTRATES HIS ANTI-IRA ORIENTATION AND WILLINGNESS TO BACK IT UP BY STRONG MEASURES. IT HAS PRODUCED FAVORABLE REACTION TOWARD COSGRAVE GOVT BECAUSE IT WAS CARRIED OUT SUCCESSFULLY AND WITH APPARENT PRECISION. THESE ARE ELEMENTS WHICH ARE NOT ALWAYS PRESENT IN IRISH SECURITY OPERATIONS, SO THE PUBLIC IS ENJOYING THE FEELING.

6. HOWEVER, WE THINK IT IS NOT RPT NOT CORRECT THAT THERE HAS BEEN DRAMATIC DEPARTURE FROM POLICY PURSUED BY EX- PM LYNCH. POLITICALLY, THE CLAUDIA OPERATION WAS LESS DIFFICULT THAN HIS ARREST OF SEAN MACSTIOFAIN. THE REAL CHANGE HERE OCCURRED A YEAR AGO, WHEN CHANGED BRITISH POLICY ON NI BEGAN TO CAUSE GREAT MAJORITY OF IRISH PUBLIC TO REJECT THE IRA. WITH PUBLIC SUPPORT, IT BECAME POSSIBLE FOR GOI TO TAKE EFFECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST MEN OF VIOLENCE. IN THIS, AS IN MOST OTHER FIELDS, COSGRAVE ADMINISTRATION IS PROVING MORE EFFICIENT THAN ITS PREDECESSOR, BUT BASIC ANTI- IRA ORIENTATION IS NOT NEW.  
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PAGE 03 DUBLIN 00423 021709 Z

MOORE

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\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
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**Subject:** SEIZURE OF IRA ARMS SHIPMENT ON " CLAUDIA"  
**TAGS:** PINS, EI  
**To:** BONN  
DIA WASHDC  
EUR  
LONDON  
MOSCOW  
NICOSIA  
O LONDON

SECSTATE WASHDC  
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